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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Chile

DATE DISTR. 12 October 1952

SUBJECT Chilean Delegates to Conferencia Internacional
de Defensa de la Infancia in Vienna

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. Although Raquel Gonzalez, Luz Fernandez, and Irma Sierralta, members of the Chilean delegation to the Conferencia Internacional de Defensa de la Infancia recently held in Vienna, Austria, are not first-line Party figures, they are all members of the Communist Party of Chile (PCCh).
2. Raquel Gonzalez, a Santiago midwife and aide to Dr. Hernan Sanhueza, director of the maternity ward at the Barros Luco Hospital, went to the Conference as a representative of local Communist midwives, nurses, and other hospital personnel. The Communist personnel of the hospital financed 30% of her expenses, and Gonzalez herself paid the remaining 70%. Gonzalez is a director of the Centro Femenino Cornelia Olivares, in Santiago, reportedly a Communist controlled organization.
3. Luz Fernandez, a Santiago schoolteacher, also paid most of her own expenses as far as Vienna. After arrival in Vienna, everything was gratis for the delegates.
4. The expenses of Irma Sierralta, a Santiago social worker and member of the pro-peace movement, were paid by her well-to-do family. She is a former member of the now defunct Chilean-Soviet Cultural Institute.
5. The trip of the delegates to the Conference is of little significance, so far as the PCCh is concerned, other than that it apparently offered three more of its members the opportunity to visit the USSR and its satellites.¹ The local Communist press, following an early build-up of the Vienna Conference, has since abstained from publicizing the Conference. The article in Las Noticias de Ultima Hora represents the only known post-conference publicity in Chile.
6. Chief members of the Chilean delegation are believed to have been Mireya Lafuente and Nelly Villanueva, Chilean Communist feminine leaders.

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-2-

Democracia, PCCh publication, reported both as possible delegates in pre-conference publicity. Both have recently returned to Chile from extensive European trips. While in Europe, they participated in various other international Communist meetings.

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1. Comment. On 25 August 1952, Las Noticias de Ultima Hora, anti-US leftist newspaper, carried an article regarding the participation of a Chilean delegation at the Conference in Vienna. All three individuals gave enthusiastic interviews in behalf of the USSR and the popular democracies, apparently having traveled extensively in the area. They qualified what they saw as a "curtain of flowers rather than iron." Throughout the interview they insisted that they were neither Communists nor converted sympathizers as a result of this trip but rather were extolling the virtues of the Communist countries as unbiased observers.

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